



RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN'S

NATURE LAB IS EVOLVING



MOLLY FALLON artist

In September 1999, Molly Fallon [RISD '00 Painting] took a Nature Lab-sponsored course called *Nature, Art, and Design*, which ignited her passion for botany and deeply influenced the direction of her work.

On a tour of the Nature Lab, she was intrigued by the herbarium, a case containing thousands of delicate pressed plants dating from the 1840s to the 1950s. In the herbarium, she found the combination of art and science that she continues to pursue today. Her unique

paintings and sculptures, inspired by objects in the Nature Lab, won her RISD's prestigious Florence Leif award in 2000.

As a graduate, Molly worked in the Nature Lab, which led directly to a job at the Natural History Museum in Roger Williams Park in Providence and to her current position as an artist with the Cryptogamic Botany Company in Peace Dale, RI. This studio produces exquisitely detailed presentations and interpretations of natural specimens.

**"I AM COMPELLED TO KNOW WHAT
SOMETHING IS, WANT TO ADMIRE ITS FORM,
AND NEED TO SEARCH FOR MEANING."**

— Molly Fallon [RISD '00 Painting]



Molly Fallon [RISD '00 Painting]





l-r: *Grateloupia doryphora* | 2001, pressed seaweed specimen, 5 x 5" by Molly Fallon [RISD '00 Painting] and Alex Frost | *Palmaria palmata* covered in a red crustose coralline epiphyte and *Dasya baillouviana* found along the shore in Narragansett, RI | students studying seaweed samples in the Nature Lab | selection of pressed samples from the herbarium | *Grinnellia americana* (2001, pressed seaweed specimen, 7 x 11") by Molly Fallon [RISD '00 Painting] and Alex Frost